

## **BRAC IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY – June 15, 2010**

- John Carman called the BRAC Implementation Committee to order at 7:30 p.m.
- Phil Alperson, the County's BRAC Coordinator, was unable to attend the meeting. The following notes were prepared by Ken Hartman, Director of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center:
  - Ken presented Phil's monthly BRAC Updates:
    - **STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS.**
      - The **BRAC MOBILITY PROJECTS MATRIX** is posted on the **BRAC web site**. It has been updated through June 11 and reflects the multi-modal approach the County, State and other stakeholders are taking to address the transportation impacts of BRAC in Bethesda – transit improvements, pedestrian and bicycle enhancements, intersection upgrades, transportation demand management, etc.
        - **UPDATED BRAC TRANSPORTATION MOBILITY PROJECT MATRIX, as of 6-11-10:**  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/bra c/pdf/transpo\\_project\\_matrix-061110.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/bra c/pdf/transpo_project_matrix-061110.pdf)
        - **10-6-09 Bethesda BRAC Transportation Investment Priorities: A joint MDOT/MC-DOT memo listing phased implementation of projects and funding streams:**  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/p df/bracprojects-tiers-100609.pdf>
        - **11-17-09 Description of “Tiers” and “Phases” of Intersections Improvement Program:**  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/p df/intersections-tiersphases-summary-111709.pdf>
      - **FEDERAL FUNDING:** As we know, last December Congress appropriated \$300 million from the Defense Health Care budget towards transportation improvements in the communities around NNMCC Bethesda and the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. However, DOD responded that these funds cannot be transferred from military health care accounts to

state and local transportation agencies without specific instruction from Congress. To respond to this administrative hurdle, Congressman Chris Van Hollen is working to insert language in the FY2010 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill to direct the disbursement of the \$300 million. If the language is included in the House bill, then it must survive a conference with the Senate on its version of the bill. Hopefully this will be completion within the next couple of weeks, or before the summer recess.

- It is very important to note that these funds are for the current Fiscal year, which expires at the end of September. It is very possible that the language may require that the funds be obligated to specific projects by the end of September. There are three projects of interest, as outlined in the “Tiers and Phases” crafted by MDOT and MCDOT last fall: The SHA Intersections Improvement project, the County’s Bike & Pedestrian Paths upgrades, and the MD 355 Crossing Project. The intersections and pathways projects are clearly defined but the MD 355 Crossing Project is still in process. The rapidly approaching September 31 target date to obligate funds for the project is the reason why MCDOT is moving quickly to achieve consensus with stakeholder federal, state, and local agencies and the community to define the Purpose & Need for the MD 355 Crossing Project and to select the most cost-effective design that meets the Purpose & Need.
- **SHA BRAC INTERSECTIONS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT:** The Park & Planning Commission has tentatively scheduled Mandatory Referral Hearings for the SHA BRAC Intersections Improvement Project for July 22, a change from the first week in July. The most recent SHA proposed designs for the intersections (as of April 2010) are posted on the County’s BRAC web site on the Transportation Page and the Community Involvement Page as background for the upcoming June 15 BRAC Implementation Committee meeting.  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brcmpl.asp?url=/Content/EX/EC/BRAC/transportation.asp>
- **MD 355 CROSSING PROJECT:** Concept Designs and the Final Purpose & Need Summary for the MD 355 Crossing Project between NNMC and the Medical Center Metro station are on the BRAC web site’s “MC-DOT NEPA STUDY Page”:  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brcmpl.asp?url=/Content/EX/EC/BRAC/nepa-pedaccess.asp>
- **PEDESTRIAN & BIKE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS:** Concept Drawings for the MC-DOT Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Project for the NNMC-NIH area are on the BRAC web site’s Transportation Page:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brcmpl.asp?url=/Content/EX/EC/BRAC/transportation.asp>

- **CEDAR LANE BRIDGE AND PEDESTRIAN/BIKE**

**IMPROVEMENTS:** On April 14, 2010 the Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation (MC-DOT) held a Public Meeting on the Rehabilitation of the Cedar Lane Bridge over Rock Creek, which includes expanded pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The Park and Planning Commission has scheduled July 1 hearing on the Cedar Lane bridge and shared use path project. MC-DOT Presentations and Design Concepts on the Cedar Lane bridge project:

<http://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-DTE/Common/Projects.aspx?id=509132-05&DatabaseType=SQL&section=Facility%20Planning>

- **DISCUSSION:**

- **John Carman:**

- Requested that Government members should update the mobility project matrix. The matrix needs to be cleaned up before mandatory referral.
    - Asked community members to consider and let him know if there is enough information available to explain things to their communities.

- **In response to the Phil's report about the DOD disbursement, there was considerable discussion about the status of the \$300 million appropriation.** Questions were asked about the status of the disbursement in the Senate and whether there was reasonable certainty that necessary legislative hurdles could be overcome.

- John Carman asked where the State and County have to be to use the funding. Assurances were given by Gary Erenrich that there was great emphasis being placed on being ready to utilize the funding when it comes available.
    - Joan Kleinman: In response to a question stated that the last figure on the share of the appropriation to be made available for transportation needs for NNMC was \$150 million.
    - Further clarification was provided by staff that the MD 355 crossing was to be included in the \$150 million. That project should not detract from funding available for the intersection projects. MCDOT is placing an emphasis on affordability in its work to narrow alternatives.

- Additionally, it was noted that the DAR funds are not part of the \$150 million.

○ **Larry Cole:**

- Corrected the staff report about the status of mandatory referral for the Cedar Lane bridge. Mandatory Referral was held on June 10, and will not be July 1.
- The Jones Bridge Shared Use Path will be on the Planning Board's agenda for July 1.
- Committee members were asked by Larry to send in comments about the SHA intersections by July 1.

○ **Gary Erenrich:** The Chevy Chase Valley study should be completed by the end of June. DOT can brief the BIC at its July meeting.

- Ken Strickland requested that MCDOT provide him with information about the Chevy Chase Valley study as soon as available. This will assist him with consensus building in his community.

○ **John Carman** requested that if any member feels that there is the need for BIC comments on the projects to please contact John or Phil by email. Also community members are asked to copy John and Phil on community association positions or testimony

○ **Gary Erenrich** announced that MCDOT is looking to hold a public meeting on a narrowed list of options for the MD 355 Crossing Project during the week of July 19<sup>th</sup>. In response to a question from John Carman, Gary could not say whether further data on costs for this project will be available on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

● **PRESENTATION:**

- SHA, White Flint Partnership concerning Transit Oriented Development (TOD). *The presentation will be posted on the BRAC web site with this meeting summary.*
  - In response to a presentation of the ROW cross sections, Debbie Michaels suggested that Old Georgetown Road should be considered for BRT.

- Gary Erenrich noted that the County BRT study will be completed by the end of the year.
- Nancy Abeles recommended that MCDOT conduct outreach during the BRT study.
- **The meeting was adjourned. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 20, 2010, 7:30 p.m., at the BCC Regional Services Center.**

**Committee members in attendance, June 15, 2010:**  
*(coming)*